

# HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

194 Putnam Pike  
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on **Thursday, October 17, 2013.**

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson; Moderator – Raymond Fogarty;  
Treasurer – Sandra Owens; Tax Collector/Clerk – Kimberly Barber;  
Board Members – Jim Richards, Milton Huston,  
George Kain & Louise Michaels  
Association Representative – Linda Ferragamo, President  
Attorney – Fred Mason, Jr.

Absent:

**I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:03 pm** by Moderator Fogarty.

**II. - Approval of the minutes from the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. If there are no corrections, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

George made a motion to accept the minutes. Milton seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**III. – Approval of Bills:**

A check register of bills to be paid was provided to all board members in their folder. Moderator Fogarty asked if there were any comments or questions on these expenses. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them as presented.

Kim stated there weren't any bills out of the ordinary. The largest one was for \$2,200 to pay for the upcoming Rapid Intervention Training (RIT) class. Half of this expense will be billed out to the students and the other half will be paid by a Woonasquatucket Valley Firemen's League grant. So it will be zero cost to the district.

Louise made a motion to approve the bills. Jim seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. - Treasurer's Report:**

Due to Sandy's absence, reports for both July and August were tabled.

**V. - Tax Collector's Report:**

The taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$145,713.77. Taxes collected in the month of September totaled \$139,779.31.

Third party billing fees collected in the month of September were \$12,818.60. This was pretty consistent with the prior month.

20 day notices for the tax sale were mailed on October 4<sup>th</sup>. There will only be 5 parcels left on the list after RI Housing pays one and 2 taxpayers come in on Friday. The tax sale is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Ray asked how many parcels were in the last tax sale. Kim replied that she thinks there were 6, 4 with houses and 2 land parcels that did not sell.

Kim provided an update on mail delivery at the station. The Chepachet Postmaster, Hugh, came out to see where the mailbox look around the site and suggest where the mailbox should be located. All we need to do now is buy a mailbox and mount it on the building. Ray asked for clarification of the new address, since he had missed the last meeting. Kim stated it is 194 Putnam Pike, Glocester, RI 02814. The post office box will remain open until such time as the board feels the transition has been smoothly made and we will not miss any important mail.

A discrepancy was noted in the By-Laws when Kim was researching the Special Meeting process. Excerpts of the 2 sections in question were enclosed in everyone's folders for their review. When requested to call a Special Meeting the By-Laws require it be held within 30 days, according to Section 2. According to Section 3 Notice must be posted at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Attorney Mason suggested that the Annual meeting requirements be left alone, deleting the cross reference, and new verbage be added for the Special meeting notice requirements. Ray suggested that Kim, Chief and Attorney Mason look this over further and have written verbage ready to present at next month's meeting.

Milton made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report. Jim seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VI. - Chief's Report:**

Rescue 2 is back in service after the Engine was changed. It was still under warranty so there was no cost to the district.

October 9<sup>th</sup> a full day was spent doing annual inspections of businesses located within the district. These inspections are required for them to renew their town licenses. Only 1 is left to do, the Fogarty Elementary School.

Continuing to work with Glocester PD on radio tower and FCC licensing issues. The FCC ordered us to do narrow banding which we feel has restricted the output of our wattage. The Chief is petitioning the FCC on behalf of the Glocester Public Safety Commission to be able to raise these restrictions.

An officers meeting was held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Chief Segee, Captain Falco and Lieutenants Farley, Vota and Perreault were in attendance. Items discussed were:

- division of Officers duties
- new Probationary Class, which has since started on Thursday nights
- live burn at the Steere Farm Land Trust property. This is to be done in conjunction with RIDEM and other neighboring departments will be invited to attend.

RIT Class to be held in November. This class is the training of firefighters to remove fellow firefighters trapped in a burning building. The classroom portion will be held here on a Monday evening from 6-10 pm and the practical portion at the Fire Academy in Exeter on a Sunday morning. 50% of this class expense will be reimbursed through a grant from the Woonasquatucket Valley Firemen's League. The remainder of the expense will be billed to the students attending.

Private Kimberly Perreault held a CPR class here for the crew, Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>. A couple members are still in need of this training, but are aware that it is a requirement for membership in the department.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Honor Flight to date took place on Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Chief said there were 64 WWII veterans on this flight. The next one is scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We did receive a grant for Captain Falco to attend a Recruitment and Retention class in Newport. He was there for the whole weekend. He brought back some very good information back that he is very excited to get started with involving "Social Media".

We had a small water leak in Kim's office. A valve for the heating system located in her ceiling will need to be replaced.

Milton made a motion to accept the Chief's report. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:**

Linda stated that there was a Tree Lighting Committee meeting held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. They have received \$800 in donations already: \$600 Navigant Bank for the children's gifts, \$150 Freedom National Bank for the apple dumplings and \$50 from the Dawson Group. The event is to be held on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the weekend after Thanksgiving as always. Jim said that his wife Kacey had expressed an interest in helping the committee. Kim said she would send her an e-mail to invite her to the next committee meeting.

Louise made a motion to accept the Association's report. Milton seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VIII. - Committee Reports:**

##### **a. Broadband Work Team – Milton, Chair**

Milton had done some research about the 700 MHz band that was allocated to first responders. Of the 700 MHz they have carved out 34 MHz. They don't feel that the audio communications are adequate yet to go over the broadband for first responders. So they are looking into taking your narrow banded radio and putting that over the broadband. The Chief said that sounds like the Second Signal program we are using now. Milton said that he thought that was text only. The Chief stated that you do receive a text, then hit the link to open the audio of the call. We have between 17 and 19 of our crew members signed up for this program so far. Milton wants to look further into what the requirements are for licensing, hardware, proprietary software,

etc. to get onto that bandwidth. He is interested in learning more about the radio conversion process to keep the broadband discussion open.

b. Apparatus Review Work Team – Jim Richards, Chair  
**Work Team: Jim, George, Chief, Deputy Chief Segee and Lt. John Falco**

Jim said that since the last meeting when the feeling was that we were going to be over budget with the cost, the work team has looked over the specs and came up with a list of items that they were willing to remove in order to reduce the cost. Some of them were things that it would be nice to have, but when it came down to it the team wanted to be fiscally responsible with the expense. The team then presented the changes to the bidders and they reworked their bids. When the adjusted bids were all received the team met again to go over the revisions. Some discussion followed about the revisions. The work team agreed on a recommendation to make to the board, to award the bid to Tri Star Fire Apparatus of Pawtucket, RI for the purchase price of \$205,453. The solution they came up with the cover the \$5,453 overage, was to recommend using the proceeds from the sale of the old truck. The board members all agreed that a special meeting was not required to move these funds, just a motion.

Louise made a motion to move the \$6,789.99 made from the sale of our old truck, from the General Fund to the Truck Fund. Milton seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**IX. - Old Business:**

The Chief said that he had been in touch with the RI DOT Deputy Director's Assistant. He stated that Federal money has been allocated to repair a 3-1/2 mile stretch of Route 44. They now have to go before the Glocester Planning Board once again to try and get the plan approved. They were already rejected once before. The Chief told him that the district wants to partake in the meetings with the Glocester Planning Board. The D.D.A. also stated that he understands the issues with the width of the road and agrees with the fact that it is a safety issue. Ray asked if the RI DOT could just simply leave the road the way it is and just resurface it to expedite the project. The Chief explained that the road project it is a Mitigation Plan and has to be completed in its entirety or it will lose funding. The meeting will take place sometime in November and the Chief said he will e-mail the district board with the date when it is received.

**X. - New Business**

The Chief stated that it has been brought to our attention that the owner of 190 Putnam Pike, on our East side, may be interested in selling. An ad was seen on Craig's List by a crew member. We had contacted her many years ago, but she was not interested at that time. The property is a duplex on .78 acres of land. George seemed to think that the parcel used to be approximately 5 acres and was wondering when it had been subdivided. He wanted to make sure there wasn't a sliver of land between the station and the house. Some discussion followed about the particulars of this property. Ray suggested that the Champlain Foundation, the RI Foundation, Mr. Kilmartin, the Levy Foundation, etc., be solicited for funds to make the prospective purchase. Kim had prepared a letter of interest for the Property Review Work Team in advance of the meeting. The board agreed that the letter should be sent and George signed it.

Louise was also provided with copies of the letters of interest sent out at the last meeting.

George mentioned that if anyone is interested in attending, there will be a birthday party for Chepachet Fire Departments retired Chief, Jigs Chase, at the Chepachet Union Church this Saturday night.

**XI. - Public Input:** No audience.

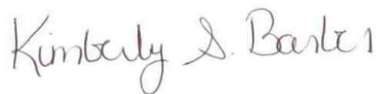
**XII. – Executive Session:** None called

**XIII. – Adjournment:**

Louise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Milton seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The October meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **7:50 pm**.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, November 21, 2013** at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly S. Barber".

Kimberly S. Barber  
Tax Collector/Clerk